



**1033rd meeting of the
Pacific Coast Numismatic Society**

8:00PM Wednesday, April 24, 2002

Knights of Columbus Hall, 2800 Taraval St. at 38th Ave. San
Francisco

Phil Nordin
Philippine Numismatics

Pacific Coast Numismatic Society
Box 194271 San Francisco, CA 94119-4271
www.pcns.org

Bulletin Editor: Michael Wehner

Please join us Wednesday, April 24, 2002 to hear *Phil Nordin* tell us about Philippine numismatics.

1032 meeting, March 27, 2002 (*reviewed by Herb Miles*)

Our resident scholar of all things British and PCNS fellow, *Mr. Larry Reppeteau*, gave us a wonderful presentation on an 1837 Medal commemorating the founding of the London School. Larry collects medals because he finds them to be “miniature metallic history books” telling a story of events or people. It is our duty to research and bring out such history for our benefit and the benefit of generations to come.

Now since *Mr. Reppeteau* does not collect medals, it was serendipitous that he chanced upon this 1837 medal commemorating the 1834 founding of the London School. He is certain that it called to him plaintively from a dealer’s case, requesting in that reserved British way for the school’s history to be divulged once again.

On the obverse of this 58 millimeter copper medal is a view of the school’s west front, with CITY OF LONDON SCHOOL surrounding. Below the building to the left is I B BUNNING ARGN in tiny letters and in exergue, FOUNDED/BY THE CORPORATION/1834.

Reverse has inscription around the periphery, FOR THE RELIGIOUS & VIRTUOUS EDUCATION OF BOYS AND THEIR INSTRUCTION IN LITERATURE & USEFUL KNOWLEDGE. To the left, a seated Figure of Knowledge instructing a youth leaning on a table inscribed, IOHN CARPENTER 1447. Above the table are the arms of the City of London.

Spink’s catalogue states that 350 copper pieces were struck and an unknown quantity of silver pieces were minted as well. The school pictured on this medal was built with a bequest from one John Carpenter, a little known town clerk of 14th and 15th century England. Appointed London town clerk in 1417 with a salary of 40 pounds sterling per year, he had the duty of writing letters to the king on behalf of the city. As such he came to know various members of the king’s household and the Court.

He must have prospered because on February 23, 1431, the “City” (that part of London contained within the old Roman walls) awarded *Mr. and Mrs. Carpenter* an 80 year

lease for property on the highest hill within the City of London, lease payments being "one red rose" and 20 shillings per year!

In 1436, he was elected to the House of Commons, and subsequently in 1438, he resigned as "common clerk of the city." Reelected to Parliament in 1439, he must have grown tired of the public life as in December of 1439, he was granted exemption from all civil and military obligations by king Henry VI. Carpenter then began to expand his real estate holdings.

It is likely that Carpenter died on May 17, 1447 as his wife directed that an anniversary celebration should to be held on that date each year. A 1603 "Survey of London" accounting states that Carpenter gave "tenements" for the bringing up of four poor boys aged seven to fourteen for their entire subsistence including education until they reached majority, then four others would take their place in perpetuity. These were called Carpenter's Children. For more that three centuries, these boys were boarded at various schools around London while at the same time, the endowment from Carpenter's real estate holdings grew larger and larger.

In 1833, the charity commissioners decided to use 900 pounds to endow a school and to increase the number of scholarships to 8. Parliament allowed the funds to be diverted, a site was chosen on Milk Street in the Cheapside district of London, the cornerstone was laid in 1835 and the school was completed and opened in 1837. This medal, designed by Benjamin Wyon, son of Thomas Wyon, 'the Elder', brother of Thomas Wyon, "the Younger", and nephew of William Wyon commemorates that event.

Exhibits (*compiled by Herb Miles*)

Ken Takahashi brought several of his CSNA & NCNA Exhibit Awards, most containing a medal or token attached to the plaque and a 1997 gold Hong Kong coin showing the skyline of the city.

Cal Rogers had three medals picturing airplanes, one showing an American Airlines 4-passenger craft, one honoring the Berlin Airlift and another celebrating the Battle of Midway; he also brought a coin of Timur, from one of the

“seven Stans” of the Middle East (Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, etc).

Mark Wm Clark exhibited several token errors purchased at the recent Dublin token show, a San Francisco shipbuilding Bethlehem shipyard badge, and a Guatemala piece picturing the founders of the country.

Jack Free brought a whole 60 pocket album full of tokens and medals with bridges, a “good for a smile” token, and a “good for a laugh” token with a funny face pictorial.

Larry Reppeteau exhibited his latest hockey puck, a 77 mm British medal showing the New School of London.

Stephen Huston shared his second 2nd place literary award from CSNA for his article “Coins of the Crusader Kingdom of Majorca”.

Gordon Donnell brought his latest acquisitions from the Dublin token show: Washington wooden tax token, a silver round picturing a hobo with inscription “I made mine as a coin collector”, a 1975 ANA medal, an Oregon Centennial medal featuring a replica \$10 beaver, a San Francisco mirror from Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe along with a Wells Fargo belt buckle.

Jerry Schimmel shared his very worn SS Ventura “Good for a Drink” token. The SS Ventura was a passenger ship with stops in Honolulu, Tahiti, Samoa, and other ports in the Far East and this token probably was given to first class passengers.

Michael Wehner brought a 1994 Presidio/Golden Gate medal honoring the US Army garrison and a new “Old Ship Saloon” token from the recent reopening of the once famous San Francisco tavern that was housed in a gold rush era scuttled ship along the old shoreline.

Thomas Jefferson (and Other Presidents) on Philippine Planchets *Phil Nordin*



From 1903 through 1936, from 1958 through 1963, and again from 1967 through 1974, the United States struck coins for the Philippines. In the process, an occasional Philippine planchet would find its way into a press configured with American dies, resulting in a wrong-planchet error involving two countries.

The key to sorting out the identities of dual-country errors is their planchet weight. In all cases, the coin will weigh exactly what its host planchet should weigh. The diameter of the resulting coin may or may not be correct. For example, a Lincoln cent on a brass planchet intended for a 5-sentimos of 1967-1974, KM-197, will strike up correctly with good detail on both the obverse and reverse. Of course, the brass color is an obvious difference. In many cases, however, the host planchet is smaller than the intended denomination. The resulting coin is not complete in its design, and in most cases it will appear poorly struck, because insufficient metal is available to fill in the details.

A rule of thumb is that a planchet must be the same size or smaller than the denomination on which it is struck. For collectors looking to build a set of U.S. coins on wrong planchets, the dime at 18mm is a problem piece because the U.S. produced nothing physically smaller. However, the Philippines produced a 16mm aluminum 1-sentimo coin from 1967-1974, and three or four dimes with Denver mintmarks have been found struck on these planchets. Such pieces are so

light, they “float” in a bowl of water. Actually, the action is due to surface tension, but the effect demonstrates the uniqueness of dual country wrong planchet errors.



A floating dime. (Editor's note: This must be seen to be believed!)

Cliff House Orchestrian token *Michael Wehner*



The Cliff House has been a San Francisco attraction overlooking the Pacific Ocean since 1863. The first building, sold to Adolph Sutro in 1881, burned to the ground on Christmas Day 1894. In 1896, Sutro rebuilt the Cliff House in a grandiose French Chateau style. This structure, pictured on the token above, survived the 1906 earthquake only to burn down again the following year. The current building, rebuilt by Sutro's daughter, Emma in 1909 continues the tradition. Since 1977, the Cliff House has been a property of the National Park Service and today is part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

The token exhibits unusual detail in the rendering of the Cliff House despite its diminutive size. Upon magnification, one can even see a couple strolling in front and a horse and carriage approaching on the road. This token was used to play a tune in an orchestrian, a type of player piano containing additional instruments. These instruments, driven by a bellows system, could be quite complex, housing horns, stringed instruments, accordions, drums and all other sorts of music producing devices. Orchestrians, including the one that this token was likely used in, can be seen and played today at the Musee Mechanique, located at the Cliff House. The Musee is a wonderful place, full of amusement machines from a bygone era. Children of all ages can enjoy antique baseball and golf games or test their skill and strength against a mechanical opponent. Regrettably, the Musee Mechanique is not included in the Park Service's plan to renovate the Cliff House. Unless other housing for the Musee can be found, another San Francisco treasure will be lost.

Raffle

The raffle had a Wells Fargo theme this month. Thanks Herb! A Wells Fargo 2002 Chinese Year of the Horse Calendar went to *Evan Huston*.

A Wells Fargo 2002 150th Year Anniversary Calendar went to *Gordon Donnell*.

A Wells Fargo 150th Year Anniversary Bronze Medal featuring the stagecoach was won by Jerry Schimmel.

A sterling silver round from the 1972 Longiner-Wittnauer set featuring the Wells Fargo stagecoach went to *Jack Free*.

A silver round honoring the Pony Express went home with *Lori Reppeteau*.

An off-metal (aluminum) striking of the latest CSNA medal portraying the Wells Fargo stagecoach went to *Michael Wehner*.

A Wells Fargo bank bag went to *Jack Free*.

A Wells Fargo keychain and shield went to *Jerry Schimmel*.

Old Mint Update (Michael Wehner)

You may recall that some time ago, PCNS member, *Don Kagin* gave a presentation about possible futures for the Old San Francisco Mint on 5th Street. His recommendation is that a "National Gold Rush History Museum" occupy a portion of the building. This April 15, Gordon Donnell and I joined Don to attend a public hearing of the "Old Mint Task Force" at City Hall. The task force is considering several options and the process is still in an early stage. It appears that all options have a museum of some sort. The difference in the various scenarios were in the fraction of the building devoted to museum space and the amount of money each scenario will cost each year. Members of the task force solicited a written letter from the Society to reinforce the idea that the museum have a numismatic character.

3rd CSNA/PCNS educational symposium

The Society will again host the Northern California CSNA educational symposium. The date will be Saturday October 5, 2002 and the location will be the same as last year, Fort Mason in San Francisco.